

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel Claims 25-29 and Claims 36-55.

Claims 1-20 (Previously Canceled)

21. (Original) A smoke producing mortar cartridge, comprising:

a two part shell body comprising a payload compartment;

a tailfin assembly positioned below the two part shell body;

at least one external propellant charge positioned above the tailfin assembly;

an ignition cartridge for igniting the least one external propellant charge;

a fuze;

a black powder charge positioned below the fuze;

a first aluminum plate positioned below the black powder charge having an outer diameter dimensioned to fit within the shell body and including a center hole;

a second aluminum plate positioned between the first aluminum plate and the black powder charge, having substantially the same outer diameter as the first aluminum plate and including a center hole that is coaxial with the center hole of the first aluminum plate but smaller in diameter;

a non-metallic spacer positioned above the second aluminum plate having an outer diameter substantially identical to the second aluminum plate and an axial hole of a diameter greater than the center hole of the second aluminum plate;

a starter patch positioned below the second aluminum plate;

a smoke producing composition positioned below the starter patch and in contact therewith, wherein the smoke producing composition comprises an organic smoke producing agent, an oxidizer, a fuel, and an organic binder;

a steel reinforced canister for containing and protecting the smoke producing composition and dimensioned to be releasably secured within the payload compartment; and

a drag assembly attached to the canister and positioned below the canister in the payload compartment, comprising one or more ribbon streamers adapted to slow the descent of the canister and reduce drifting.

22. (Original) The smoke producing mortar cartridge of claim 21, wherein the smoke producing composition is consolidated into a plurality of preformed elements dimensioned for stacking within the canister.

23. (Original) The smoke producing mortar cartridge of claim 22, wherein the elements are substantially annular in shape.

24. (Original) The smoke producing mortar cartridge of claim 23, wherein the substantially annular elements comprise concentric holes that form a vertical channel in the smoke producing composition to improve ignition and smoke producing capabilities.

Claims 25-29 (Canceled)

Claims 30-35 (Previously Canceled)

Claims 36-55 (Canceled)